

towers much higher with much more safety. But even the first old steel towers were far from being as safe and convenient as modern towers. It was quite a task to climb the narrow ladder attached to one side of the tower. Such was not a job for a tenderfoot. Present day towers have fairly well protected stairways leading to a more comfortable tower room. Many modern improvements have helped to make towermen's lives more pleasant. Still the task of "watching" a tower is tedious work, but very important.

FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM

After a good system of fire detection has been provided, the next most important thing is to have a good fire fighting system. Primarily a good system for fighting forest fires depends on good organization from A to Z.

Once a fire has been spotted the next thing is to get to it with the necessary manpower and equipment to bring it under control in the least time possible. There always is excitement connected with forest fires, but the boys responsible for stopping them must know and do their "stuff" as the saying goes. Unfortunately, a good fire control system does not catch the public's eye as easily as does a series of destructive wild fires. Forest fire control folks may go along for years doing a good job keeping down fires and not be noticed, but let a big destructive fire pass over the country side and all kinds of publicity will be given to hard fighting fire fighters.

Effective fire control requires good equipment—trucks, power pumps, crawler tractors and fire-line plows, tanks, pumps, rakes, shovels—in tip-top shape ready to go at any moment. It means dependable manpower, and it means that preliminary planning makes it possible for each person concerned to know what he is to do and to do it without taking a lot of time after a fire is reported to figure out what to do. Then when a fire is reached, it is important that each person know how to make the best use of his time, for each minute is important when a fire first starts.

Fortunately, in North Carolina the fire control program